

John ...
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T H O S E

That have been formerly in
AUTHORITY,
And have broken
COVENANT
WITH
God & Man.

By G.F.

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To Those that have been in Authority, &c.

Friends,

NOW are the *Prophecies* fulfilled and fulfilling upon you, which was spoken to you by the People of God, in your *Courts*, in your *Steeple-Houses*, in your *Towns*, *Cities*, *Markets*, *High-ways*, and at your *Fests* and *Pleasures*, when you were at your height of Authority, & in your Highness, and puffed up that you would neither hear God nor man, though raised up from a mean Estate; none to come nigh you without bowing, or the respect of persons; and were in the worlds way, Complements, and Fashions, and set down at ease in the spoyle of your enemies: Which for Conscience sake toward God they could not go into, which they were Redeemed from: Therefore, they were by you hated for that cause, but now you may consider the thing is come upon you, which we told you of; who exalted your selves above your Brethren, and threw the just and harmless from among you, until at last God hath thrown you out; and when you cast the innocent out from among you, then you sell abiding one at another, until you were consumed one of another; and so the day is come upon you, which before to you was told, though before you would not believe it. And is not your hearts so hardened that you will hardly yet believe, though in captivity? and was it not told you (when you spilt the blood of the Innocent, in your *Steeple-Houses*, in your *Markets*, in your *High-ways*, and in your *Cities*, yea and *Courts*) by such as spoke the word then, and could not put off their hats, that if something did not arise among your selves, to avenge the blood of the Innocent, there would something come from beyond Sea, which lay reserved there, which the Arme of Flesh, and strongest of Mountains cannot withstand the Arm of God; & yet you would not consider, nor regard, nor hear, but cried peace, peace, and feasted your selves, and sat down in the spoyle of your enemies, and were both treacherous to God and man; and who will trust you now? and have you not taken *COVENANTS* and *OATHS*, and made the Nation take *COVENANTS*, and *OATHS*? and broken both *Covenants* and *Oaths*, bewixt God and

and man, and made the Nation both, break both *Covenants & Oaths*? So that nothing but hypocrisy, and rottenness, and falshood, and fair pretences, were seen amongst you. And after when you pretended to set up the *Old Cause*, it was but your filliness; so that you long stunk to sober people, which saw that no good you would do, but it was a joy to any of you to get up in Authority, that you might have praise; and them that were in the self-denial were a derision to you, amongst whom That was banished, and so become the honored and respected, Nations Masters, and not Servants, for the greatest of all must be the Servant to all; and so there you lost your Authority, not considering your states from whence you were, & to what God had raised you up, but forgot the Lord, and have quenched that which is good in your selves, and have persecuted them that lived in it, so that an honest man could not live amongst you, but put out till you were overthrown your selves, and so were grown so gross & perverse, that at last you are neither fit for God nor man: Have you not used to call the *Quakers*, the *Phanatick people*, and the *giddy heads*, but whether are you now giddied into *Cains City of Nod*, which signifieth wandring? And have you not persecuted, and imprisoned till death, such as God hath respect to? and now hath he reproved you for their sakes, by them whom ye have hated. Was not many of you cut off (and yet would not take warning) for your persecuting? was not there a book of *Examples* set out unto you, shewing what sudden and strang deaths happened upon the persecutors of the Innocent without a cause? and yet ye would not take warning, until the over-flowing Scourge come upon you. Are not you them that have killed, (like *Cain* that killed) about your Sacrifice? hath not God Vagabonded you, that you should become a Curse upon the earth? doth not the blood of the Righteous cry out of the ground for Vengeance? will not the blood of the Righteous be required? did you think that the Lord would let you sit alwayes with bloody hands, and sits of wickedness? what is become of all your feasts, and fasts, or the prayers and blessings of your Priests? hath the Lord heard you, or your Sacrifices hath he had respect unto? do you not see that its all hypocrisie, and from a false heart? will not the Priests pray for the *KING* now, as fast as they prayed against him, for the *PARLIAMENT*, to keep their benefices, who once prayed

against him, and said, *Cursed was he that did not fight against him:* Now what is become of your Sacrifices, you Persecutors, hath God had respect to them; or are they gone where *Gain* went? O the falseness of heart! and treacherousness, and security that you were grown to, that you could not trust one another! have not you caused the Nations, and caused the Souldiery both in arrears, and in wages, to suffer? was the Nation behind in their Taxes? and have not the Souldiers bin like to starve for want of their pay? have not you been false to God and man every way, & oppress the Nation every way? & almost all people had a cry of oppression in their mouths, and when they petitioned you; and addrest to you, it was a great thing if they had thanks from you; and some when they laid their grievances before you, you would not take it except they put of their hats: Now your place had been to have sought to have done Justice, if you had known your places, for that is it that preserves a Nation. So have not you been the greatest Prayers, and Preachers, and Professors in the Nation, and the greatest Persecutors? for how many thousands have been brought up to you; and laid before you, that have been Stocke and Whipped, Banished, and put to Death, and their houses Risted, and their goods spoyled, by your great Professing, and Preaching Priests? as ever did the *Tories*, and *Moss Troops*, which made your Religion lothsome, and made the honest people dissent from you; but now have you your reward, and the day of the Lord is come upon you, nevertheless God hath reserved a rod in store, for them that do wickedly, that none should joyce in wickedness, and in the downfal one of another, but in the Power of the Lord that doth overturn, which is seen with the pure eye, that lives in Justice, Truth and Righteousness; and the Ravenous Lyons must not be Satisfied, but must suffer hunger; the reward of the hypocrite is to be paid, and persecutors were ever blind. And now you may see what is come upon you; now see if your Teachers can save you, who have Preached and Prayed for you, and that they would stand by you with their *Lives* and *Liberties*, and that they would stand in the gap: Now see how they have deceived you, whose hedg now is laid down to the ground: And have you not imprisoned and persecuted many for coming to you, and warning you of those

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those things which now are come to pass upon you? Therefore, now you may see, that when you had power you did not do good in your age, and so had not a praise, neither a good Saviour in the hearts of the honest upright and innocent; for had you stopt, the shedding the blood of the innocent, persecution and oppression, the Lord would have stood by you (for that will be the greatest thing upon you) & stopped the violence of the wicked, from imprisoning them; and these things will follow you to your beds, and on you lye heavy; yea the heaviest thing as ever you did, besides all your unjust dealing, and bad actions, and dealings in the Nation to people, that had regard to you, and that were against you.

And now all ye *PRIESTS* and *PROFESSORS*, you may see what good you have done among people, and you who have been the cause of calling so many of the servants of the Lord in prison, and cast out of the Vineyard, and now are you turned out your selves, and mind your vineyard, how you found it, and how you left it, and see if you be at peace with the unrighteous *mammon*, and now you have not power, but are become as weak as water, and have not strength, neither are you to rise, except you repent.

And Friends, you have brought the Nation to be like a great Sea, and in it hath been like *Whales* to swallow up; you have been the *bad examples* and *patterns*, who have pretended the greatest profession and preaching that ever was in *England* before, but that you have dishonoured, and that which God hath given to you is quenched, and you would have broken both order, edification and comforting amongst Gods people, but now hath God broken you, & reprov'd you for touching his Anointed, and harming his Prophets; and you have been the example of persecution to all the Dominion of *England*, yea to all Nations; who have been the greatest professors of Christ with your lips, but now your hearts, and inward parts, and skirts, hath God brought to light, and made you as bare, and as naked, as the servants of the Lord that went among you as a signe of your nakedness and stripping; (which some of them you abused, and cast into prison) I say, went naked before the people was carried into captivity, as a signe to them, as many have done to you, and some in sack-

cloth and ashes upon their heads, and still you rebelled and persecuted the Lords Prophets, though some with hypocritical hearts would promise fair, but perform little. Now is a skilfull people come upon you, and now is the woes and plagues which we have often declared come upon you, which the servants of the Lord have cryed, *WOE to England, WOE to the corrupt Magistrates, WOE to the Priests and to the Hypocrites, and fair Pretenders, and not Doers:* Now you may see the end of your false Prophets and Priests that daubed with untempered mortar; Now where is your wall they made? what have you now to cover your heads? lye they not bare now? are you not all become weak as water and faint-hearted, that dare not stand to your own principles? so as you have been examples and paterns of persecution to all Nations of the innocent, in the height of your pride and vanity, are now become a hissing to all Nations in your fall, which the pride went before, which you were often told of. O! wo is me for you! That mercy from the Lord you may find, in this great deep dark-day of confusion among you, who are like *Babylon* confounded, who hath long drunk the Saints blood; the *Kings* of the earth must hate the Whore, as the *Revelations* the *Scriptures* must be fulfilled, and thats but beginning, your *Dalilah* hath cut your locks, who has lulled asleep in her lap, who rose and shook your selves, and thought to have been as at other times: This was said to you before your eyes was put out, & you set a grinding; but now you must see if you can work in the *Mill*; but your state will hardly be found *Sampsons*, therefore consider your selves, and see if they were not your friends that warned you of the things that is come upon you; who in the day of your prosperity would have stopt the cry of Wisdom in your gates, and they that reproved sin in your gates (which you Magistrates did not keep down) was become a prey amongst you; your goals you fill'd almost in every corner of the Nation with the innocent and peaceable people; and of such as obeyed the command of Christ, and could not sweare, you thrust out of your *Courts* and *Places*, and thrust them into *Goals*, that would have done truth at yea and nay. The houses of thousands of Families have you suffered to be rifed and spoiled by the Priests with a company of club-men, like a troop of Robbers: In all your *Courts*, *Assizes*, and *Sessions* have you caused the in-

nacent to be haled up and down, by an unrighteous *ministry* that they did no work for; and so brought iniquity upon your Throne: Likewise men of 60. or 80. l. a year, who reprov'd sin in the gates, and likewise *sober women*, you have whipped as *vagabonds*, and so have been *examples* to Nations to *Whip, Banish, Prison, Kill, Burn*, and drink the blood of the innocent; and so Christ hath not been your example, *who saves mens lives*.

And besides, *thousands* you have suffered your *Priests* and *People* to drag out of your *Steeple-houses* by the *hair of the head*, *knockt down*, lay for *dead*, shed *their blood*, & cast into *prison*, & besides *thousands* of *meetings* of the people of God have been by your people tumulted, many there *windows broken*, houses *pulld down*, and men pulled out of the *meeting* by the *hair of the head* when they have been at prayer, which has been a dishonour, & a shame to Government: And how many *formed lies* have been invented amongst you, and by your *Priests*, that the *Quakers* was rising to cut your throats; and now! what good does your refuge do you? and what is become of your refuge makers? are not the *Quakers* now tryed and proved? and must not now your refuge of lies go to the pit with you? and was not the people of God called *Quakers* your friends, in warning you of all this that is come to passe? though you persecuted them, and trod upon them, and cast them out, for the Lords names sake, and because they trembled at his word; but now he shall appear for their sakes, and you shall be ashamed, and the thousands; and multitudes that have been persecuted by you for not *doffing hats* to you, and respecting persons, in which you went beyond all *Christianity* (yea, the very *Turk*) in pride and ambition, and now you may see what you have been covered withall, now you have the substance of it, and you may see how the life of Religion, you have lived out of, and out of the life of *Christ* and the *Apostles*; and now you may see that God hath stained, and laid in dust that glory and honour of yours, which you would have had friends to bow down to, and persecuted them because they would not give it you, and because they would not bow down to your will-worships, but worshippt God in Spirit and Truth.

And was not persecution ever blind, and Persecutors? and now you may see into what Ditch you are fallen: And have you
not

not a reward according to your workes, you cannot say, but you were warned both by God and his people, and were in a wilfull rebelling against both; and so the Lord will make you to know his Arm and Power, and his hand stretched out, which layes down the Mountaines with the Valleys, and layes down the sturdiest Oak, and slayes the fattest Bull: View the hand that does this, and Power of the Lord: Whether would not now many of you be glad of a *Rock* and a *Hole* in the earth to hide your selves in, when the Lord is risen to shake terribly the earth? now must you not own *Quakers* whether you will or no? and for all your persecution towards us we freely say, *the Lord forgive you, and that from him you may find mercy in this day of your misery,* and whether now *night* is not come upon you that hath been told you, that your walking is there? and now have not you treachery enough, who in it has been found both to God and Man? plain dealing men were become, an abominable thing among you, for how many fair promises had you promised to the Nation, over and over, and how long did the Lord spare you? and did you not betray the innocent people of the Nation? Now mind and consider, whither that hath brought your selves, *and learn to do so no more, but repent.*

All men shall be at their wits end about their Religion and Profession which be out of the Life & Power the Prophets and Apostles were in, and in heaps, and confusions, and distractions, one setting up, and another plucking down; And this is the work out of the Life and Power.

And before the Lord destroyed *Jerusalem*, he long warned them, as he hath long you, and neverthelesse the Lords Arm and Power, will and shall be seen in this Nation.

And did not the Lord warn & send Prophets among the people before he destroyed them? and did not they persecute them as you have done? and so cast the Lords Servants out of the vineyard, like the *Jews*, untill at the last they were cast out themselves, and so you who have betrayed the Nation and power, at last what you sowed, that you do reap.

From one that loves all souls (and the good of all people) which is eternall.

George Fox.

